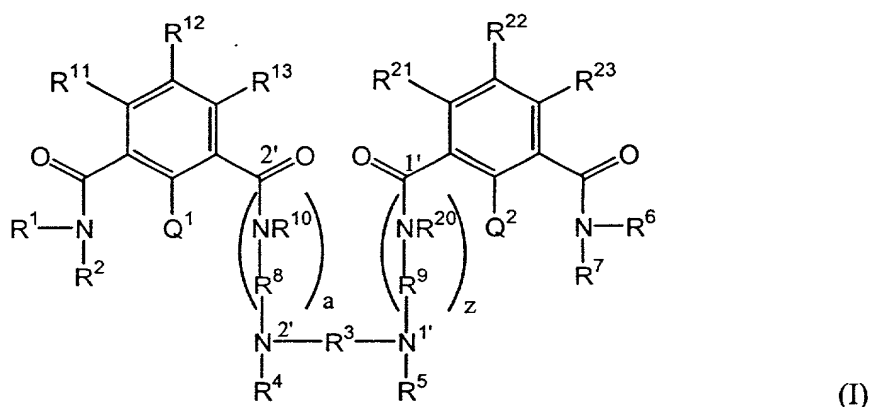


WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A luminescent lanthanide metal chelate comprising a metal ion of the lanthanide series and a complexing agent comprising at least one phthalamidyl moiety.
2. The chelate according to claim 1, having a quantum yield of at least about 0.1.
3. The chelate according to claim 2, wherein said lanthanide metal ion is an ion a member selected from europium, terbium and combinations thereof.
4. The compound according to claim 1, further comprising at least one salicylamidyl moiety.
5. A compound having a structure according to Formula I:



wherein,

$R^1, R^2, R^4, R^5, R^6, R^7, R^{10}$ and R^{20} are members independently selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl and substituted alkyl groups,

wherein, two or more of R^2, R^4, R^5, R^7 and, when R^3 is substituted alkyl, a substituent of R^3 are optionally adjoined by at least one linker moiety to form at least one ring;

R^3, R^8 and R^9 are members independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, substituted alkyl, aryl and substituted aryl groups;

$R^{11}, R^{12}, R^{13}, R^{21}, R^{22}$ and R^{23} are members independently selected from alkyl, substituted alkyl, H, $-NR^{14}R^{15}$, $-NO_2$, $-OR^{16}$, $-COOR^{17}$,

wherein, R^{14} , R^{15} , R^{16} and R^{17} are members independently selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl and substituted alkyl, wherein R^{12} can optionally form a ring with R^{11} , R^{13} or both, and R^{22} can optionally form a ring with R^{21} , R^{23} or both, said rings being members independently selected from the group of ring systems consisting of cyclic alkyl, substituted cyclic alkyl, aryl, substituted aryl, heteroaryl, substituted heteroaryl, heterocyclyl and saturated heterocyclyl ring systems; and

Q^1 is $—OR^{18}$;

Q^2 is $—OR^{19}$,

wherein R^{18} and R^{19} are members independently selected from H, an enzymatically labile group, a hydrolytically labile group and a single negative charge;

a is 0 or 1, with the proviso that when a is 0, $N^{2'}$ is covalently attached directly to carbonyl group 2'.

z is 0 or 1, with the proviso that when z is 0, $N^{1'}$ is covalently attached directly to carbonyl group 1'.

6. The compound according to claim 4, wherein z is 0.

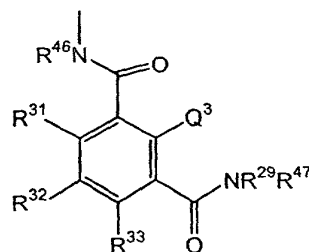
7. The compound according to claim 5, wherein R^3 is a linear C_1-C_6 hydrocarbon.

8. The compound according to claim 6, wherein

R^8 is $(CH_2)_P$;

R^4 is an alkyl group substituted with a moiety having a structure according

to Formula II:



(II)

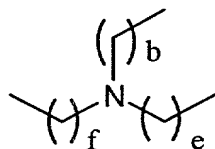
wherein,

R^{29} , R^{46} and R^{47} are members independently selected from the group
 consisting of H, alkyl and substituted alkyl groups, wherein, two or more
 of R^2 , R^7 and R^{29} are optionally adjoined by at least one linker moiety to
 form at least one ring
 R^{31} , R^{32} and R^{33} are members independently selected from alkyl, substituted
 alkyl, H, $-\text{NR}^{24}\text{R}^{25}$, $-\text{NO}_2$, $-\text{OR}^{26}$, $-\text{COOR}^{27}$,
 wherein, R^{24} , R^{25} , R^{26} and R^{27} are members independently selected from
 the group consisting of H, alkyl and substituted alkyl, wherein R^{32} can
 optionally form a ring with R^{31} , R^{33} or both, said rings being members
 independently selected from the group of ring systems consisting of
 cyclic alkyl, substituted cyclic alkyl, aryl, substituted aryl, heteroaryl,
 substituted heteroaryl, heterocyclyl and saturated heterocyclyl ring
 systems;
 R^3 is $(\text{CH}_2)_x$;
 $\text{Q}^3-\text{OR}^{28}$, wherein R^{28} is a member selected from H, an enzymatically labile
 group, a hydrolytically labile group and a single negative charge;
 P and X are members independently selected from the group consisting of the
 integers from 1 to 5, inclusive;
 and z is 0.

9. The compound according to claim 8, wherein two or more of R^2 ,
 R^7 and R^{29} are adjoined by at least one linker moiety to form at least one ring.

10. The compound according to claim 8, wherein R^2 , R^6 and R^{29}
 together comprise a single linker moiety.

11. The compound according to claim 10, wherein said linker moiety
 has a structure according to Formula III :

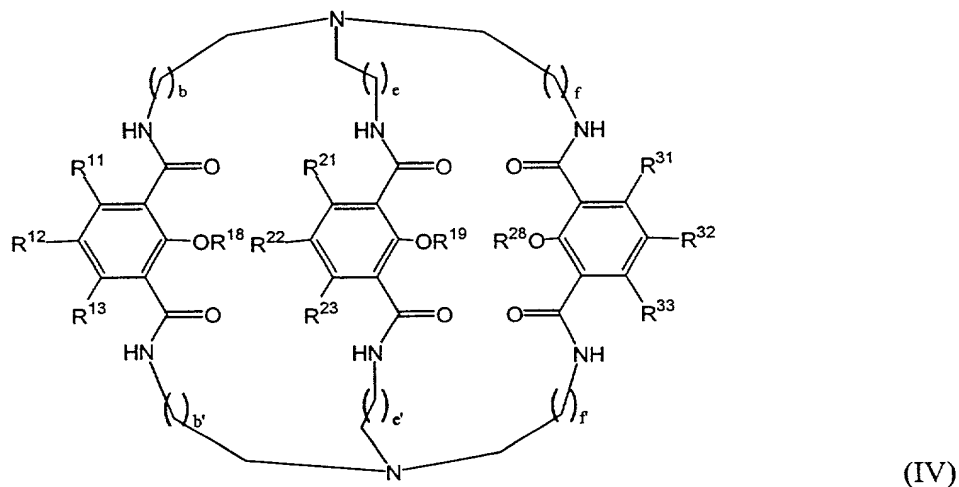


(III)

wherein,

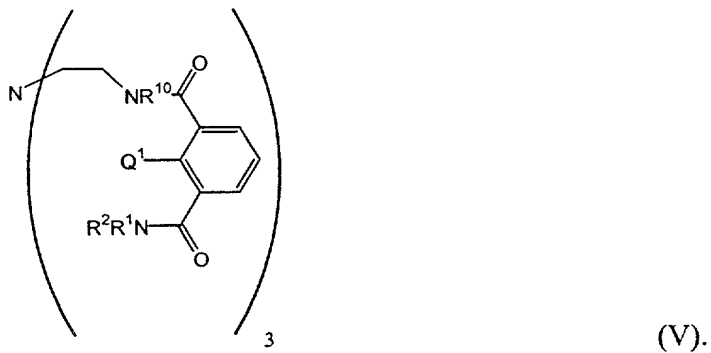
b, e and f are members independently selected from the group consisting
 of the integers from 1 to 5, inclusive.

- 1 12. A compound according to claim 11, having a structure according to
2 Formula IV:

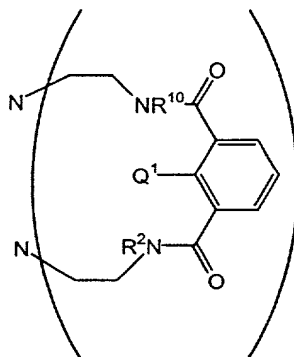


- 3
4 wherein,
5 b, b', e, e', f and f' are members independently selected from the group
6 consisting of the integers from 1 to 5, inclusive.

- 1 13. A compound according to claim 8, having a structure according to
2 Formula V:



- 1 14. The compound according to claim 13, having a structure according
2 to Formula VI:



(VI).

15. The compound according to claim 8 wherein, $R^1, R^2, R^3, R^5, R^6, R^7, R^8, R^9, R^{10}, R^{29}, R^{46}$ and R^{47} are members independently selected from the group consisting of H, C_1 to C_{10} alkyl and C_1 to C_{10} substituted alkyl.

16. The compound according to claim 15 wherein, $R^1, R^2, R^3, R^5, R^6, R^7, R^8, R^9, R^{10}, R^{29}, R^{46}$ and R^{47} are members independently selected from the group consisting of H, C_2 to C_6 alkyl and C_2 to C_6 substituted alkyl.

17. The compound according to claim 8, wherein $R^1, R^2, R^3, R^5, R^6, R^7, R^8, R^9, R^{10}, R^{29}, R^{46}$ and R^{47} are members independently selected from the group consisting of H, aryl, substituted aryl and combinations thereof.

18. The compound according to claim 8, wherein $R^1, R^2, R^3, R^5, R^6, R^7, R^8, R^9, R^{10}, R^{29}, R^{46}$ and R^{47} are members independently selected from the group consisting of H and alkyl substituted with polycyclic aryl groups.

19. The compound according to claim 8, wherein a member selected from the group consisting of $R^1, R^2, R^5, R^6, R^7, R^8, R^9, R^{10}, R^{29}, R^{46}$ and R^{47} and combinations thereof is a primary alkyl amine.

20. The compound according to claim 19, wherein said primary alkyl amine is a C_1 to C_{10} alkyl chain bearing an amine moiety at the ω -position.

21. The compound according to claim 20, wherein said primary alkyl amine as a C_2 to C_6 alkyl chain bearing an amine moiety at the ω -position.

22. The compound according to claim 8, wherein a member selected from the group consisting of R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , R^5 , R^6 , R^7 , R^8 , R^9 , R^{10} , R^{29} , R^{46} and R^{47} and combinations thereof is a polyether.

23. The compound according to claim 22, wherein said polyether is a member selected from ethylene glycol, ethylene glycol oligomers and combinations thereof, wherein said polyether has a molecular weight of from about 60 daltons to about 10,000 daltons.

24. The compound according to claim 23, wherein said polyether has a molecular weight of from about 100 daltons to about 1,000 daltons.

25. The compound according to claim 8, wherein a member selected from the group consisting of R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , R^5 , R^6 , R^7 , R^8 , R^9 , R^{10} , R^{29} , R^{46} and R^{47} comprise a reactive group for conjugating said compound to a member selected from the group consisting of molecules and surfaces.

26. The compound according to claim 8, wherein R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , R^5 , R^6 , R^7 , R^8 , R^9 , R^{10} , R^{29} , R^{46} and R^{47} and combinations thereof are members selected from ω -carboxyl alkyl groups, ω -carboxyl substituted alkyl groups and combinations thereof.

27. The compound according to claim 26, wherein said ω -carboxyl substituted alkyl group has a structure according to Formula VII:



wherein,

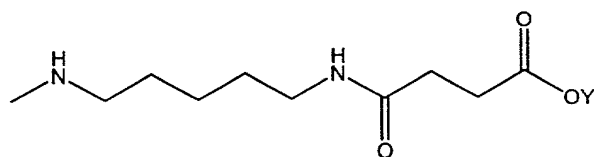
X is a member selected from O, S and NR^{50} , wherein

R^{50} is a member selected from H, alkyl and substituted alkyl;

Y is a member selected from H and a single negative charge; and

j and k are members independently selected from the group consisting of integers from 1 to 18.

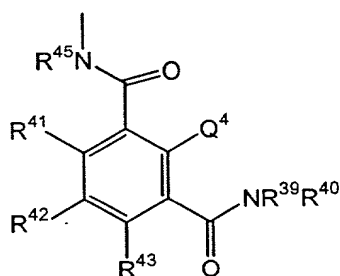
28. The compound according to claim 27, wherein said ω -carboxyl substituted alkyl group has a structure according to Formula VIII:



(VIII).

29. The compound according to claim 8, wherein R^1 , R^2 , R^5 , R^6 , R^7 , R^{10} , R^{29} , R^{46} and R^{47} are H.

30. The compound according to claim 5, wherein R^4 is an alkyl group substituted with a group having a structure according to Formula II;
 R^5 is an alkyl group substituted with a moiety having a structure according to Formula IX:



(IX)

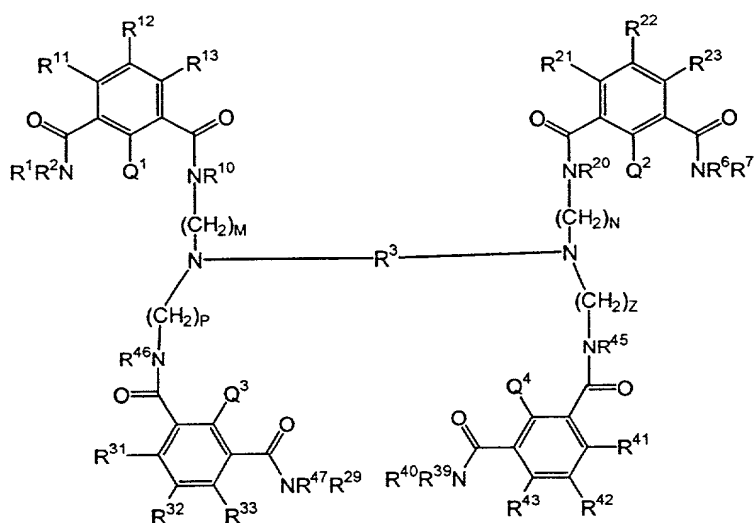
wherein,

R^{39} , R^{40} and R^{45} are members independently selected from alkyl and substituted alkyl groups; and

R^{41} , R^{42} and R^{43} are members independently selected from alkyl, substituted alkyl, H, $-\text{NR}^{34}\text{R}^{35}$, $-\text{NO}_2$, $-\text{OR}^{36}$, $-\text{COOR}^{37}$,

wherein, R^{34} , R^{35} , R^{36} and R^{37} are members independently selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl and substituted alkyl, wherein R^{42} can optionally form a ring with R^{41} , R^{43} or both, said rings being members independently selected from the group of ring systems consisting of cyclic alkyl, substituted cyclic alkyl, aryl, substituted aryl, heteroaryl, substituted heteroaryl, heterocyclyl and saturated heterocyclyl ring systems.

31. A compound according to claim 30, having a structure according to Formula X:



(X)

wherein,

M, N, P and Z are members independently selected from the group consisting of the integers between 1 and 5, inclusive.

32. The compound according to claim 31, wherein, $R^1, R^2, R^3, R^5, R^6, R^7, R^8, R^9, R^{10}, R^{20}, R^{29}, R^{39}, R^{40}, R^{45}, R^{46}$ and R^{47} are members independently selected from the group consisting of C_1 to C_{10} alkyl and C_1 to C_{10} substituted alkyl.

33. The compound according to claim 32 wherein, $R^1, R^2, R^3, R^5, R^6, R^7, R^8, R^9, R^{10}, R^{20}, R^{29}, R^{39}, R^{40}, R^{45}, R^{46}$ and R^{47} are members independently selected from the group consisting of C_2 to C_6 alkyl and C_2 to C_6 substituted alkyl.

34. The compound according to claim 31, wherein $R^1, R^2, R^3, R^5, R^6, R^7, R^8, R^9, R^{10}, R^{20}, R^{29}, R^{39}, R^{40}, R^{45}, R^{46}$ and R^{47} are members independently selected from the group consisting of aryl, substituted aryl and combinations thereof.

35. The compound according to claim 31, wherein $R^1, R^2, R^3, R^5, R^6, R^7, R^8, R^9, R^{10}, R^{20}, R^{29}, R^{39}, R^{40}, R^{45}, R^{46}$ and R^{47} are members independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl substituted with polycyclic aryl groups.

36. The compound according to claim 31, wherein a member selected from the group consisting of $R^1, R^2, R^5, R^6, R^7, R^8, R^9, R^{10}, R^{20}, R^{29}, R^{39}, R^{40}, R^{45}, R^{46}$ and R^{47} and combinations thereof is a primary alkyl amine.

37. The compound according to claim 31, wherein said primary alkyl amine as a C_1 to C_{10} alkyl chain bearing an amine moiety at the ω -position.

1 38. The compound according to claim 37, wherein said primary alkyl
2 amine as a C₂ to C₆ alkyl chain bearing an amine moiety at the ω-position.

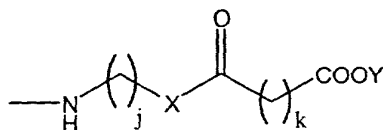
1 39. The compound according to claim 31, wherein a member selected
2 from the group consisting of R¹, R², R⁶, R⁷, R¹⁰, R²⁰, R²⁹, R³⁹, R⁴⁰, R⁴⁵, R⁴⁶ and R⁴⁷ and
3 combinations thereof is a polyether.

1 40. The compound according to claim 39, wherein said polyether is a
2 member selected from ethylene glycol, ethylene glycol oligomers and combinations
3 thereof, wherein said polyether has a molecular weight of from about 60 daltons to about
4 10,000 daltons.

1 41. The compound according to claim 39, wherein said polyether has a
2 molecular weight of from about 100 daltons to about 1,000 daltons.

1 42. The compound according to claim 31, wherein R¹, R², R⁶, R⁷, R¹⁰,
2 R²⁰, R²⁹, R³⁹, R⁴⁰, R⁴⁵, R⁴⁶ and R⁴⁷ and combinations thereof are members selected from
3 ω-carboxyl alkyl groups, ω-carboxyl substituted alkyl groups and combinations thereof.

1 43. The compound according to claim 42, wherein said ω-carboxyl
2 substituted alkyl group has a structure according to Formula VII:



(VII)

4 wherein,

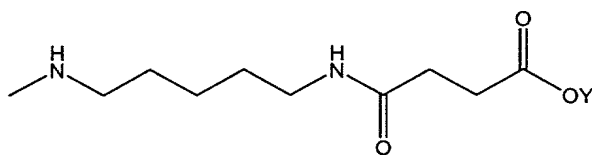
5 X is a member selected from O, S and NR⁵⁰, wherein

6 R⁵⁰ is a member selected from H, alkyl and substituted alkyl;

7 Y is a member selected from H and a single negative charge; and

8 j and k are members independently selected from the group consisting of
9 integers from 1 to 18.

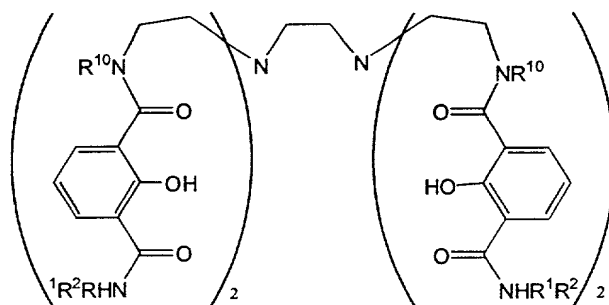
1 44. The compound according to claim 43, wherein said ω-carboxyl
2 substituted alkyl group has a structure according to Formula VIII:



(VIII).

45. The compound according to claim 31, wherein R^1 , R^2 , R^6 , R^7 , R^{10} , R^{20} , R^{29} , R^{39} , R^{40} , R^{45} , R^{46} and R^{47} are H.

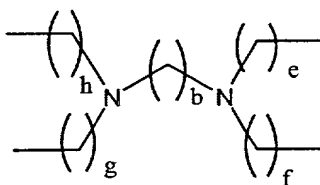
46. A compound according to claim 31, having a structure according to Formula XI:



(XI).

47. The compound according to claim 30, wherein R^1 , R^6 , R^{29} and R^{39} together comprise a single linker moiety.

48. The compound according to claim 47, wherein said single linker moiety has a structure according to Formula XII:

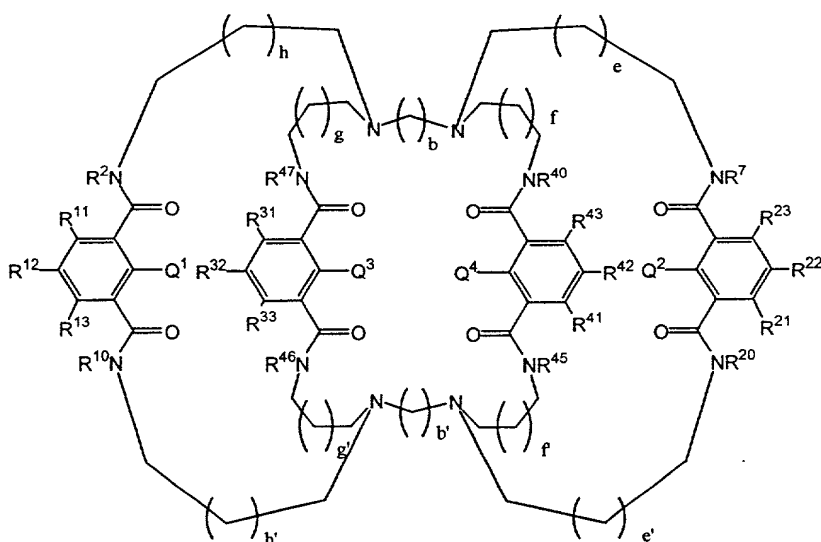


(XII)

wherein,

b, e, f, g and h are members independently selected from the numbers between 1 and 5, inclusive.

49. A compound according to claim 48, having a structure according to Formula XIII:



wherein,

$R^2, R^7, R^{10}, R^{20}, R^{40}, R^{45}, R^{46}$, and R^{47} are members independently selected

from the group consisting of H, alkyl and substituted alkyl;

$R^{11}, R^{12}, R^{13}, R^{21}, R^{22}, R^{23}, R^{31}, R^{32}, R^{33}, R^{41}, R^{42}$ and R^{43} are members

independently selected from alkyl, substituted alkyl, H, $—NR^{10}R^{11}$,

$—NO_2$, $—OR^{12}$, $—COOR^{13}$, or two or more of R^5, R^6 and R^7 are joined to

form a ring system, which is a member selected from cyclic alkyl,

substituted cyclic alkyl, aryl, substituted aryl, heteroaryl, substituted

heteroaryl, heterocyclyl and saturated heterocyclyl systems;

Q^1, Q^2, Q^3 and Q^4 are $OR^{18}, OR^{19}, OR^{28}, OR^{38}$, respectively, wherein, R^{18} ,

R^{19}, R^{28} and R^{38} are members independently selected from H, and a single

negative charge;

b and b' are members independently selected from the group consisting of the

integers from 1 to 5, inclusive; and

e, e', f, f', g, g', h and h' are members independently selected from the group

consisting of numbers from 0 to 3.

50. The compound according to claim 49 wherein, $R^2, R^7, R^{10}, R^{20}, R^{40}, R^{45}, R^{46}$, and R^{47} are members independently selected from the group consisting of C_1 to C_{10} alkyl and C_1 to C_{10} substituted alkyl.

1 **51.** The compound according to claim **50** wherein, R^2 , R^7 , R^{10} , R^{20} ,
2 R^{40} , R^{45} , R^{46} , and R^{47} are members independently selected from the group consisting of
3 C_2 to C_6 alkyl and C_2 to C_6 substituted alkyl.

1 **52.** The compound according to claim **49**, wherein R^2 , R^7 , R^{10} , R^{20} ,
2 R^{40} , R^{45} , R^{46} , and R^{47} are members independently selected from the group consisting of
3 aryl, substituted aryl and combinations thereof.

1 **53.** The compound according to claim **52**, wherein R^2 , R^7 , R^{10} , R^{20} ,
2 R^{40} , R^{45} , R^{46} , and R^{47} are members independently selected from the group consisting of
3 alkyl substituted with polycyclic aryl groups.

1 **54.** The compound according to claim **49**, wherein a member selected
2 from the group consisting of R^2 , R^7 , R^{10} , R^{20} , R^{40} , R^{45} , R^{46} , and R^{47} and combinations
3 thereof is a primary alkyl amine.

1 **55.** The compound according to claim **54**, wherein said primary alkyl
2 amine as a C_1 to C_{10} alkyl chain bearing an amine moiety at the ω -position.

1 **56.** The compound according to claim **55**, wherein said primary alkyl
2 amine as a C_2 to C_6 alkyl chain bearing an amine moiety at the ω -position.

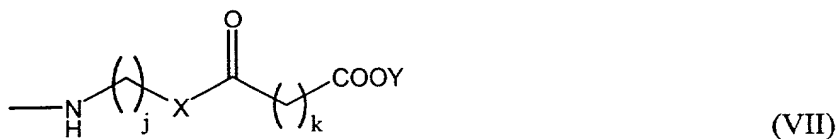
1 **57.** The compound according to claim **49**, wherein a member selected
2 from the group consisting of R^2 , R^7 , R^{10} , R^{20} , R^{40} , R^{45} , R^{46} , and R^{47} and combinations
3 thereof is a polyether.

1 **58.** The compound according to claim **57**, wherein said polyether is a
2 member selected from ethylene glycol, ethylene glycol oligomers and combinations
3 thereof, wherein said polyether has a molecular weight of from about 60 daltons to about
4 10,000 daltons.

1 **59.** The compound according to claim **58**, wherein said polyether has a
2 molecular weight of from about 100 daltons to about 1,000 daltons.

1 **60.** The compound according to claim **49**, wherein R^2 , R^7 , R^{10} , R^{20} ,
2 R^{40} , R^{45} , R^{46} , and R^{47} and combinations thereof are members selected from ω -carboxyl
3 alkyl groups, ω -carboxyl substituted alkyl groups and combinations thereof.

61. The compound according to claim 60, wherein said ω -carboxyl substituted alkyl group has a structure according to Formula VII:



wherein,

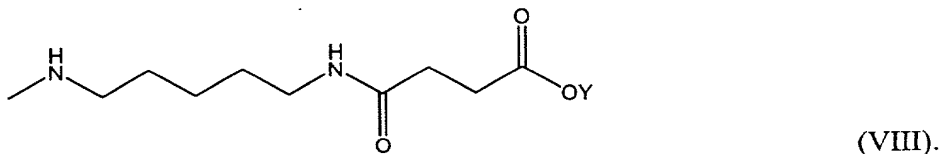
X is a member selected from O, S and NR^{50} , wherein

R^{50} is a member selected from H, alkyl and substituted alkyl;

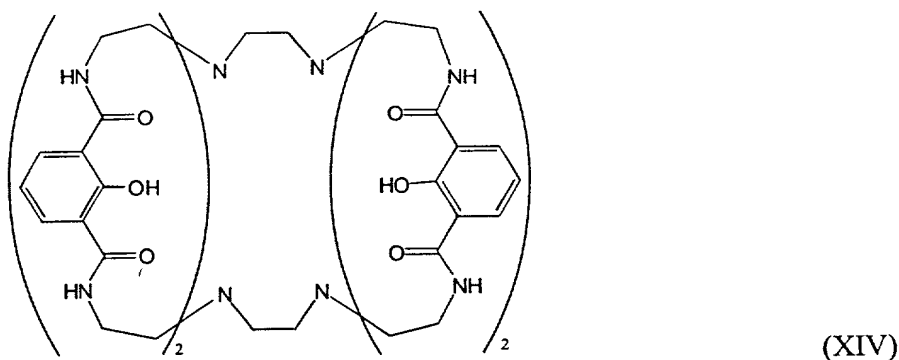
Y is a member selected from H and a single negative charge; and

j and k are members independently selected from the group consisting of integers from 1 to 18.

62. The compound according to claim 61, wherein said ω -carboxyl substituted alkyl group has a structure according to Formula VIII:



63. The compound according to claim 49, having a structure according to Formula XIV:



64. The compound according to claim 5, wherein said compound is covalently attached to a carrier molecule.

65. The compound according to claim 64, wherein said carrier molecule is a member selected from the group consisting of small molecular bioactive agents, synthetic polymers and biomolecules.

1 66. The compound according to claim 65, wherein said biomolecule is
2 a member selected from the group consisting of antibodies, antigens, peptides, nucleic
3 acids, enzymes, haptens, carbohydrates and pharmacologically active agents.

1 67. A complex formed between a metal ion and the compound
2 according to claim 5.

1 68. The complex according to claim 67, wherein said complex emits
2 luminescence.

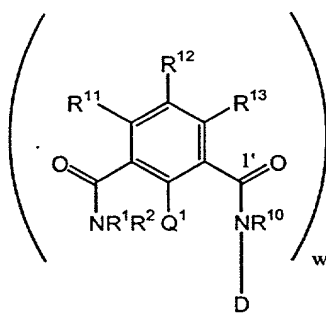
1 69. The complex according to claim 71, wherein said luminescence is
2 circularly polarized luminescence.

1 70. The complex according to claim 67, wherein said luminescence is
2 produced by electrochemical excitation of said complex.

1 71. The complex according to claim 67, wherein said metal ion is an
2 ion of the lanthanide series.

1 72. The complex according to claim 71, wherein said lanthanide ion is
2 a member selected from the group consisting of terbium, samarium, europium,
3 dysprosium and neodymium.

1 73. The compound according to claim 5, having a structure according
2 to Formula XV:



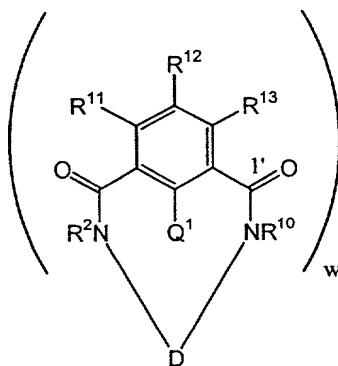
(XV)

wherein,

D is a dendrimer; and

w is a member selected from the group consisting of the integers from 4 to
100, inclusive.

1 74. The compound according to claim 73, wherein said compound has
2 a structure according to Formula XVI:



(XVI)

1 75. The compound according to claim 73, wherein said dendrimer is a
2 poly(propyleneimine) dendrimer.

1 76. The compound according to claim 73, wherein said dendrimer is of
2 a generation selected from the group consisting of generation 2 to generation 10,
3 inclusive.

1 77. The compound according to claim 73, wherein w is a member
2 selected from the group consisting of the integers between 8 and 50, inclusive.

1 78. The complex according to claim 5, wherein said compound is
2 covalently attached to a carrier molecule.

1 79. The compound according to claim 78, wherein said carrier
2 molecule is a member selected from the group consisting of synthetic polymers and
3 biomolecules.

1 80. The compound according to claim 79, wherein said biomolecule is
2 a member selected from the group consisting of antibodies, antigens, peptides, nucleic
3 acids, enzymes, haptens, carbohydrates and pharmacologically active agents.

1 81. A method for determining whether a sample contains an enzyme,
2 said method comprising:

3 (a) contacting said sample with a peptide construct comprising

4 i) a complex according to claim 67;

- 5 ii) a quencher of light energy having an absorbance band overlapping
6 an emission band of said complex; and
7 iii) a cleavage recognition site for said enzyme,
8 wherein said peptide is in a conformation allowing fluorescence energy
9 transfer between said complex and said quencher when said complex
10 is excited;
11 (b) exciting said complex; and
12 (c) determining a fluorescence property of said sample, wherein the presence of
13 said enzyme in said sample results in a change in said fluorescence property.

1 82. A method for determining whether a compound alters an activity of
2 an enzyme, said method comprising:

- 3 (a) contacting a sample comprising said enzyme and said compound with a
4 peptide construct comprising
5 i) a complex according to claim 67;
6 ii) a quencher of light energy having an absorbance band overlapping
7 an emission band of said complex; and
8 iii) a cleavage recognition site for said enzyme,
9 wherein said peptide is in a conformation allowing fluorescence energy
10 transfer between said complex and said quencher when said complex
11 is excited;
12 (b) exciting said complex; and
13 (c) determining a fluorescence property of said sample, wherein said activity of
14 said enzyme in said sample results in a change in said fluorescence property.

1 83. A method for detecting a nucleic acid target sequence, said method
2 comprising:

- 3 (a) contacting said target sequence with a detector oligonucleotide comprising a
4 single-stranded target binding sequence, said detector oligonucleotide having
5 linked thereto,
6 i) a complex according to claim 67;
7 ii) a quencher of light energy having an absorbance band overlapping
8 an emission band of said complex,

9 wherein said detector nucleic acid is in a conformation allowing
10 fluorescence energy transfer between said complex and said quencher
11 when said complex is excited;
12 (b) hybridizing said target binding sequence to said target sequence, thereby
13 altering said conformation of said detector oligonucleotide, causing a change
14 in a fluorescence parameter; and
15 (c) detecting said change in said fluorescence parameter, thereby detecting said
16 nucleic acid target sequence.

1 84. The method according to claim 83, wherein said detector
2 oligonucleotide has a format selected from molecular beacons, scorpion probes, sunrise
3 probes, light up probes and TaqMan™ probes.

1 85. A method for detecting the presence of a nucleic acid target
2 sequence, said method comprising:
3 (a) hybridizing to said target sequence a detector oligonucleotide comprising a
4 single-stranded target binding sequence and an intramolecularly associated
5 secondary structure 5' to said target binding sequence, wherein at least a
6 portion of the target sequence forms a single stranded tail which is available
7 for hybridization to said target sequence,
8 said detector oligonucleotide having linked thereto,
9 i) a complex according to claim 67;
10 ii) a quencher of light energy having an absorbance band overlapping
11 an emission band of said complex,
12 wherein said detector nucleic acid is in a conformation allowing
13 fluorescence energy transfer between said complex and said quencher
14 when said complex is excited;
15 (b) in a primer extension reaction, synthesizing a complementary strand using
16 said intramolecularly associated secondary structure as a template, thereby
17 dissociating said intramolecularly associated secondary structure and
18 producing a change in a fluorescence parameter;
19 (c) detecting said change in said fluorescence parameter, thereby detecting said
20 nucleic acid target sequence.

1 **86.** The method according to claim **85**, wherein said intramolecularly
2 associated secondary structure is a member selected from hairpins, stem-loop structures,
3 pseudoknots, triple helices and conformationally assisted structures.

1 **87.** The method according to claim **85**, wherein said complementary
2 strand is synthesized in a target amplification reaction.

1 **88.** The method according to claim **85**, wherein said complementary
2 strand is synthesized by extension of the target sequence using said detector
3 oligonucleotide as a template.

1 **89.** The method according to claim **85**, wherein the intramolecularly
2 associated secondary structure comprises a totally or partially single-stranded
3 endonuclease recognition site.

1 **90.** The method according to claim **85**, wherein said change in
2 fluorescence is detected as an indication of the presence of said target sequence.

1 **91.** The method according to claim **85**, wherein said fluorescence
2 parameter is detected in-real time.

1 **92.** The method according to claim **85**, wherein said intramolecularly
2 base-paired secondary structure comprises a portion of said target binding sequence.

1 **93.** A method for detecting amplification of a target sequence
2 comprising, in an amplification reaction:

3 (a) hybridizing to said target sequence a detector oligonucleotide comprising a
4 single-stranded target binding sequence and an intramolecularly associated
5 secondary structure 5' to said target binding sequence, wherein at least a
6 portion of said target sequence forms a single stranded tail which is available
7 for hybridization to said target sequence, said detector oligonucleotide having
8 linked thereto,

9 i) a complex according to claim **67**;

10 ii) a quencher of light energy having an absorbance band overlapping
11 an emission band of said complex,

12 wherein said detector nucleic acid is in a conformation allowing
13 fluorescence energy transfer between said complex and said quencher
14 when said complex is excited;

15 (b) extending said hybridized detector oligonucleotide on said target sequence
16 with a polymerase to produce a detector oligonucleotide extension product and
17 separating said detector oligonucleotide extension product from said target
18 sequence;

19 (c) hybridizing a primer to said detector oligonucleotide extension product and
20 extending the primer with said polymerase, thereby linearizing said
21 intramolecularly associated secondary structure and producing a change in a
22 fluorescence parameter; and

23 (d) detecting said change in said fluorescence parameter, thereby detecting said
24 target sequence.

1 94. The method according to claim 93, wherein said target sequence is
2 amplified by a method selected from Strand Displacement Amplification, Polymerase
3 Chain Reaction 3SR, TMA and NASBA.

1 95. The method according to claim 93, wherein said secondary
2 structure further comprises a partially or entirely single-stranded restriction endonuclease
3 site.

1 96. The method according to claim 93, wherein a change in
2 fluorescence intensity is detected.

1 97. The method according to claim 96, wherein said change in
2 fluorescence intensity is detected in real-time.

1 98. The method according to claim 93, wherein said intramolecularly
2 base-paired secondary structure comprises a portion of said target binding sequence.

1 99. A method of ascertaining whether a first nucleic acid and a second
2 nucleic acid hybridize, said first nucleic acid comprising a complex according to claim
3 67, said method comprising:

4 (a) contacting said first nucleic acid with said second nucleic acid;

5 (b) detecting an alteration in a fluorescent property of a member selected
6 from said first nucleic acid, said second nucleic acid and a
7 combination thereof, thereby ascertaining whether said hybridization
8 occurs.

1 100. The method according to claim 99, wherein said second nucleic
2 acid comprises a quencher of light energy covalently attached thereto.

1 101. A microarray comprising a complex according to claim 67, said
2 quencher being conjugated directly to a solid support or to a carrier molecule attached to
3 said solid support.

1 102. The microarray according to claim 101, wherein said carrier
2 molecule is a member selected from a nucleic acid, a peptide, a peptide nucleic acid and
3 combinations thereof.

1 103. The microarray according to claim 101, wherein said solid support
2 is divided into a first region and a second region, said first region having attached thereto
3 a first said complex attached to a first carrier molecule and said second region having
4 attached thereto a second said complex attached to a second carrier molecule.

1 104. The microarray according to claim 103, wherein said first and
2 second carrier molecules are members independently selected from nucleic acids,
3 peptides and peptide nucleic acids.

1 105. The microarray according to claim 103, wherein said first said
2 quencher of light energy and said second complex have different structures.

1 106. A method of probing a microarray for the presence of a compound,
2 said method comprising:

3 (a) contacting said microarray with a probe interacting with said
4 compound, said probe comprising a complex according to claim 67;

5 (b) detecting a difference in a fluorescence property of a member selected
6 from said probe, said compound and combinations thereof, thereby ascertaining the
7 presence of said compound.

1 **107.** The method according to claim **106**, wherein said compound is a
2 member selected from nucleic acids, peptide, peptide nucleic acids
3 and combinations thereof.

1 **108.** A method of providing radiation therapy to a subject harboring a
2 growth requiring such therapy, said method comprising:
3 administering to said subject a complex according to claim **67**, said
4 complex having radiosensitization properties; and
5 administering ionizing radiation to the host in proximity to the growth,
6 thereby providing radiation therapy to said subject.

1 **109.** A method for photodynamic therapy of a lesion or of a lesion
2 obscured by melanodermic tissue of a subject, said method comprising:
3 (a) administering a photosensitive complex according to claim **67** to the
4 subject; and
5 (b) photoirradiating the lesion.

1 **110.** The method according to claim **109**, wherein said photoirradiating
2 is with light having a wavelength range of about 700 to about 900 nanometers.

1 **111.** The method of claim **110** wherein the photoirradiating is with light
2 having a wavelength range of about 730 to about 770 nanometers.

1 **112.** The complex according to claim **67**, wherein said compound
2 comprises a component of an ink or a dye.

1 **113.** The complex according to claim **67**, wherein said complex
2 comprises a component of a substrate for the transmission and amplification of light.

1 **114.** The complex according to claim **113**, wherein said substrate
2 comprises a member selected from glass, organic polymers, inorganic polymers and
3 combinations thereof.

1 **115.** A method for amplifying light transmitted by a substrate, said
2 method comprising transmitting light through a substrate according to claim **113**, thereby
3 amplifying said light.

1 **116.** A method of performing a fluorescence assay of an analyte, said
2 method comprising:

3 (a) displacing with said analyte a binding partner from a binding partner-
4 recognition moiety complex, thereby forming an analyte-recognition moiety complex and
5 a free binding partner, said binding partner and said free binding partner comprising a
6 compound according to claim 5;

7 (b) forming a fluorescent complex between a lanthanide ion and a member
8 selected from the group consisting of said binding partner, said free binding partner and
9 combinations thereof; and

10 (c) detecting said fluorescent complex.

1 **117.** The method according to claim 116, wherein said recognition
2 moiety, said binding partner and said analyte are members independently selected from
3 the group consisting of bioactive materials, biomolecules and combinations thereof.

1 **118.** The material according to claim 117, wherein said biomolecule is a
2 member selected from the group consisting of haptens, antibodies, antigens,
3 carbohydrates, nucleic acids, peptides, enzymes and receptors.

1 **119.** The method according to claim 116, wherein one or more members
2 selected from the group consisting of said recognition moiety, said binding partner and
3 said analyte are attached to a surface.

1 **120.** The method according to claim 116, wherein said fluorescent
2 complex is formed prior to displacing said binding partner from said binding partner-
3 recognition moiety complex.

1 **121.** The method according to claim 116, wherein said fluorescent
2 complex is formed after displacing said binding partner from said binding partner-
3 recognition moiety complex.

1 **122.** The method according to claim 116, further comprising, separating
2 said free binding partner from a member of the group consisting of said recognition-
3 binding partner pair, said analyte-recognition moiety pair and combinations thereof.

1 123. The method according to claim 122, wherein said fluorescent
2 complex is formed following said separation.